THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2003 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 7.5.2003 pending with Rajya Sabha contained several provisions with a view to preventing corporate scams, and for ensuring transparency and accountability of the functioning of the companies, such provisions are largely based on recommendations made by Naresh Chandra Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance and Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) which examined the recent stock market scam.

"Ban on NRI investments in NSC and PPF"

†1434. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned the investment by NRIs in National Saving Certificates (NSC) and the Public Provident Fund (PPF) under Small Savings;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this decision;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The Non Resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible to invest in the small savings schemes including National Savings Certificate (NSC), VIII Issue and Public Provident Fund (PPF).

The small savings schemes are designed to cater to the needs of small urban and rural investors in order to inculcate the habit of thrift among the common masses and to provide them a risk-free avenue of investment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.